

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7752

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 12508

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR CB GW UN

SUBJECT: GKR/GRUNK CONTACTS IN BONN

REF: PARIS 21318

1. ON SEPTEMBER 14 FORMER PRIME MINISTER HANG THUN HAK GAVE EMBOFF A DESCRIPTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING IN BONN BETWEEN GRUNK REP TO SWEDEN ISOUP GHANTY AND GKR AMBASSADOR TO BERN YEN SARONG WHICH PARALLELED THAT IN REFTEL. HAK SAID THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE IN BERENDONCK'S PRESENCE. HE ELABORATED ON GHANTY'S MOTIVES FOR THE MEETING, STATING THAT GHANTY TOLD SARONG THAT PRO-SIHANOUKISTS BELIEVE THAT IF GRUNK WINS THE UN SEAT SIHANOUK'S SUBSEQUENT SPEECH BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HIS SWAN SONG. THE OTHER SIDE WILL THEN DISCARD THE PRINCE, GHANTY REPMRTEDLY ARGUED. GHANTY URGED THAT THE GKR VOLUNARILY VACATE THE SEAT IN ORDER TO END A CONFRONTATION THAT WOULD ONLY BENEFIT THE HARD CORE COMMUNISTS IN GRUNK/FUNK.

2. IN ANALYZING GHANTY'S APPROACH, HANG THUN HAK LEANED TOWARD THE VIEW THAT GHANTY IS EITHER ACTING ON HIS OWN, POSSIBLY SEEKING TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH THE GKR IN ORDER TO RALLY AT A LATER DATE, OR THAT THE GRUNK AIMS TO UNDERMINE THE GKR CREDENTIALS FIGHT STRATEGY. HAK
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NOTED THAT GHANTY IS A COMPARATIVELY MINOR GRUNK OFFICIAL BUT CONCEDED THAT HE MAY HAVE ACCESS THROUGH HIS WIFE, A

NORODOM PRINCESS, TO SIHANOUK.

3. COMMENT: SECOND-GUESSING SIHANOUK'S PLANS IS GENERALLY
BOOTLESS, BUT THE PRINCE MUST BE AWARE OF
HIS DECLINE AS THE INSURGENCY'S INTERNATIONAL ACTOR.
ADDRESSEES MAY RECALL THAT HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS BEFORE
THE 28TH UNGA GAVE THE GKR A THICK PROPAGANDA STICK TO
WALLOP GRUNK SUPPORTERS DURING LAST YEAR'S FIGHT. VACATING
THE SEAT IS NO SOLUTION, OF COURSE, BECAUSE GRUNK SUPPORTERS
WOULD PROBABLY PRESS THEIR CASE TO THE FINISH UNDER PRC
URING. BY NOW GHANTY WILL PROBABLY HAVE LEARNED FROM
BERENDONCK THAT VACATING THE SEAT IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.
IF GHANTY'S CONTACT WAS ONLY A MOVE TO UNDERMINE GKR UNGA
STRATEGY HE WILL PRESUMABLY BE INTERESTED IN FURTHER
CHATS.
KEELEY

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